	Policy Name:	<b>Playing/Training Outside of Division</b>
	Form No:	<b>001</b>
	Date Reviewed: (see Revision History at end)	<b>22 February 2023</b>


## **Brisbane Kings Playing/Training Outside of Division**

### ***Purpose***

*The purpose of this policy is to make it transparent which players are eligible to play and train up or down. The goal is to ensure that all eligible players are given equal opportunities to play throughout the season, with respect for their individual skill and ability.*

### **Playing Up**

1. This policy will be read in conjunction with any relevant ILHQ policy, and as such if there are conflicts then this policy shall be reviewed.
2. If enough players exist that are playing their last year in the age group below, only those players are considered to play up. This means that only players born 2013 are considered for playing up into 11U, only players born 2011 are considered for playing up into 13U and only players born 2009 are considered for playing up into 16U.
3. Beyond fitting into the age requirement, the player needs to be ready in size, skill and ability so the player is not a danger to themselves or other players, and, show the required maturity during practice and games.
4. For players wanting to play up, the following three criteria must be met:
  - 4.1. The player's guardian must give their permission
  - 4.2. The player's regular coach must sign off on the player being suitable, and
  - 4.3. The coach of the team that the players play up into needs to give their permission.
5. Coaches using players from a lower division should strive to give all players available to play up a balanced chance to play up.
6. With consideration for point 5 above, Coaches may use their discretion when choosing who plays up, based on the skill level of the opposing team and the skill level of the eligible player.
7. At all times, Coaches must strive for equity in playing up opportunities, with respect for the individual's skills and abilities.
8. If there are excess regular players in a division available to play on the day, the Coach may choose not to offer any opportunities to play up on that day.
9. Coaches will regularly review their team compositions, including players playing up, to meet eligibility requirements for finals.
10. Coaches must try to provide as much notice to playing up as possible, so that families have an opportunity to plan and accept the request.
11. As playing up is a privilege, players playing up can not assume to be given the same amount of rink time as the players that are regulars on the team.

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### Playing Down


12. Players in their first year of playing Inline Hockey (with Kings or any other Club) and are, by age, in the first year of a division, are eligible to play down one division for that year if their skill level is better suited for it. Based on their skill and abilities, they may be able to play in their regular division, and one division down.
13. Once the player's skills are deemed on par with the players in the player's regular age group, or above the players of the age group below, the player should play its regular age group only.
14. Females are eligible, regardless of their skills or abilities, to play in their regular division, and, when in the first year of that division, one division down.

### Training Up

15. For players wanting to train up, the following three criteria must be met:
  - 15.1. The player's guardian must give their permission
  - 15.2. The player's regular coach must sign off on the player being suitable, and
  - 15.3. The coach of the team that the players play up into needs to give their permission.
16. If the session is a joint session, for instance 13U/16U, consideration will be taken to the player's size and skating ability to avoid putting the player in a potentially dangerous situation.
17. A separate approval from the guardian is needed for situations like this as the player may be exposed to significantly bigger players.

### Training Down

18. When a player is new to inline hockey, they may be provided the opportunity to train with the division below to be able to get more suitable training and build confidence. This will be subject to the size of the division and available places.
19. This means that a new player coming into 11U should be given chances to train skills with 9U in addition to attending 11U training for instance (where this is possible with session times).
20. More competent players should not attend training for a lower age group in a different capacity than as coach's assistants, with the goal of helping the players in that age group with their skills and building their confidence.
21. If a player from a higher age group is asked by a coach to fill in to make even numbers for a scrimmage, or other drill, they are expected to play at the level of the age group and focus on lifting the other players in the scrimmage/drill (i.e. not playing at a higher level for their benefit, but playing at a level that assists the players of that level).
22. The coach running the session shall strive to use different players for different sessions, so that no player is given an unfair amount of rink time.

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<b>Revision History – please ensure all old versions are saved and archived in the Archive Folder</b>		
<b>Revision No.</b>	<b>Date Revised:</b>	<b>Revised by:</b>
V1	22 February 2023	BKILHC Committee at meeting